

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 22**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13—Relative to Women’s History Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 30, 2003.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST**

**SCR 13, Figueroa. Women’s History Month.**

This measure would declare that the Legislature joins the California Commission on the Status of Women and the National Women’s History Project in honoring the contributions of women, and proclaims the month of March 2003 as Women’s History Month. The measure would also urge Californians to join in the celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2003.

WHEREAS, American women of every culture, class, and ethnic background have participated in the founding and building of our nation, have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation, and have played a critical role in shaping the economic, cultural, and social fabric of our society, not in the least of ways through their participation in the labor force, working both inside and outside the home; and

WHEREAS, Women have been leaders in every movement for social change, including their own movement for suffrage and equal rights, the fight for emancipation, the struggle to organize labor unions, and the civil rights movement, as well as leading the call for peace and organizing to preserve the environment; and

WHEREAS, In light of these efforts and the achievements of all American women, we take this opportunity to honor women and their contribution to the development of our society and our world; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Women’s History Month will provide an opportunity for schools and communities to focus attention on the historical role and accomplishments of the women of California and the United States, and for students, in particular, to benefit from an awareness of these contributions; and

WHEREAS, Women’s History Month will include International Women’s Day on March 8, which was originally proclaimed in 1910 to recognize and commemorate the valuable contributions women have made to the labor movement in improving working conditions, and thus bettering people’s lives; and

WHEREAS, Women's History Month will be not only a call to acknowledge the outstanding American women whose names we know, but also a call to pay homage to the many women who have anonymously shaped our collective past; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Women's History Week was initiated by the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in 1977, a celebration that evolved into Women's History Month, commemorated throughout the nation by schools, historians, and community groups; and

WHEREAS, The achievements of women who have gone before us will enable contemporary women and men to create tomorrow's history by working toward an end to physical and sexual violence against women, discrimination and harassment in employment, and the relegation to poverty status of many women, and by advocating for the full participation of women in the economic and political arena, the provision of adequate child care, respect for those who choose homemaking and motherhood as their career, and equal access to all of the opportunities this great nation has to offer; and

WHEREAS, The story of the women's rights movement deserves telling because of the significance and scope of women's role in making history and shaping the cultural and societal makeup of California and the United States, and because it is a rich part of our common heritage, a story of gallantry and devotion to the belief that the opportunity for complete human dignity should not be denied to one-half of the state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, The National Women's History Project has adopted "Women Pioneering the Future" as the 2003 theme for Women's History Month, showcasing both pioneering women from United States history and innovative women of today. The 2003 theme will help deliver the message of who American women are and what they have accomplished. The theme will also help focus on the rich and complex ways women have led and won struggles for equality and civil rights, created and advanced educational and professional opportunities, and made great contributions to the arts, sciences, and humanistic causes. It will also showcase women of today who further these efforts and continue to expand the frontiers of possibility for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California takes pleasure in joining the California Commission on the Status of Women and the National Women's History Project in honoring the contributions of women, and proclaims the month of March 2003 as Women's History Month; and be it further



*Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California urges all Californians to join in the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2003; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Chair of the California Commission on the Status of Women, and to the National Women's History Project, for distribution to appropriate organizations.

